

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NEA-14 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 101737Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1975

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UG, UK, ECON

SUBJECT: UGANDA: PRESIDENT AMIN READY TO DISCUSS

COMPENSATION WITH BRITISH

1. DURING TOUR D'HORIZON WITH N. ASPIN, ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, AT FCO ON JULY 9, EMBOFFS AND ROBERT DUNCAN AF/E WERE TOLD THAT PRESIDENT AMIN HAD INFORMED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION FOR UGANDA LATE IN JUNE THAT UGANDAN COMMISSION STUDYING COMPENSATION CLAIMS HAD COMPLETED STUDY OF CLAIMS BY BRITISH SUBJECTS FROM UK, I.E. NOT ASIANS. AMIN THEN SAID BRITISH SHOULD SEND SOMEONE TO DISCUSS RESULTS WITH HIM, "PERHAPS HAROLD WILSON." WHEN TOLD MR. WILSON WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER THINGS AMIN SUGGESTED CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER HEATH, ONLY TO BE TOLD "HE IS NO LONGER A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL." FINALLY, IT WAS LEFT THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD DISCUSS AMIN'S OFFER WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE FCO DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THE UK. ASPIN COMMENTED THAT THE FCO WOULD PROBABLY SEND "SOMEONE" BUT ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL YEARS YET TO EVALUATE THE CLAIMS PROPERLY. AS FOR THE CLAIMS OF DISPOSSESSED ASIANS WITH BRITISH NATIONALITY, ASPIN

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ASSUMED THE UGANDAN COMMISSION HAD NOT YET STUDIED

THEM.

2. COMMENT: AMIN'S OFFER INDICATES HE IS TRYING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE UK AS THE BRITISH HAVE CONSISTENTLY TOLD THE UGANDANS THAT COMPENSATION WAS THE KEY TO BETTER RELATIONS. ASPIN ALSO SUSPECTS AMIN MAY WISH TO USE HIS OFFER AS A MEANS OF ASKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE; ASPIN DID NOT KNOW WHAT.

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Message Attributes

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